

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
SY-05 L-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 EB-07 PRS-01 H-01
DODE-00 COME-00 DHA-02 /050 W
-----121139Z 016388 /15

R 121042Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2124

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0457

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IT
SUBJECT: REPORT OF MEETING WITH ITALIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICIALS

FOLLOWING MSG FROM COMSUBREFITRAGRU LA MADDALENA IT
DTG 061020Z JAN 77 WAS SENT ACTION TO COMSUBGRU EIGHT INFO
TO AMEMBASSY ROME, COMSUBLANT FORFOLK VA, COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT,
AND NSO LA MADDALENA IT. IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N00000//
REPORT OF MEETING WITH ITALIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS (U)
1. (C) ORIG CHAIRED MEETING ON BOARD USS HOWARD W. GILMORE
(AS-16) ON SUBJECT OF FIRE BOMBINGS THAT OCCURRED MORNING
OF 1 JAN 77. THE FOLLWING PERSON ATTENDED:
NAME TITLE
DOTT. FARIELLO QUESTORE, SASSARI PROVINCE
DOTT. TORRICELLI VICE QUESTORE, SASSARI PROVINCE
CAPT. CAU HEAD, CARABINIERI INVESTIGATIVE SECTION
FOR SASSARI PROVINCE
CAPT. PIRODDI CO, OLBIA CARABINIERI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER USS GILMORE
EXECUTIVE OFFICER LA MADDALENA
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METTING LASTED TWO AND ONE HALF HOURS AND INCLUDED LUNCHEON
ON GILMORE.
2. (C) THE PURPOSES OF THE MEETING WERE TO PROVIDE THE CURRENT
STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT AND TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES
TO UPGRADE SECURITY OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.
3. (C) QUESTORE OPINED THAT FIREBOMBERS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH
ULTRA LEFT TERRORIST GROUP PRIMARILY LOCATED IN SASSARI.

THIS GROUP IS THOUGHT TO BE COMPRISED OF 20-30 YOUNG PEOPLE AND HAS BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE (TWO MEMBERS HAVE BEEN JAILED AND FOUR OTHERS ARE CURRENTLY ON TRIAL FOR TERRORIST ACTS). QUESTOR EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT THESE WERE THE RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND THE INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT WAS NOW PRINCIPALLY DIRECTED TOWARD TRYING TO GATHER EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM. BECAUSE OF THE INTENSIVE POLICE EFFORT HE DID NOT THINK THIS GROUP WOULD UNDERTAKE ANY FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIVITY FOR THE TIME BEING. THERE IS APPARENTLY A SYMPATHETIC GROUP IN SANTA TERESA; SIX PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED THERE ON 4 JAN DURING A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST "POLICE ACTIVITIES" THAT WENT ON 2-3 JAN IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRE BOMBINGS. QUESTORE FURTHER STATED HE FELT BASIC PURPOSE OF FIRE BOMBINGS WAS TO STIR ANTI-GOVERNMENT FEELING RATHER THAN ANTI-US, BUT THAT ACROSS-THE-POLITICAL-SPECTRUM CONDEMNATION OF ACTS WAS INDICATIVE OF FAILURE TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE. HE ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS AN INCONSISTENCY IN THAT

THEORY INsofar AS IT APPEARED ILLOGICAL TO HIM THAT THE GROUP STRUCK THE SAME TARGET TWICE IN LIGHT OF STRONG PUBLIC REACTION SYMPATHETIC TO US ARISING FROM THE AUGUST FIRE BOMBINGS.

4. (C) QUESTORE STATED THAT HIS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE WAS TO "ENSURE THAT AMERICANS CONSIDER LIVING IN SARDINIA TO BE AS SAFE AS IN UNITED STATES". AFTER DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC STEPS TO BE TAKEN, FOLLOWING ACTION WAS IMPLEMENTED:

- A. CAPT. CAU ASSIGNED TAD TO LA MADDALENA TO SUPERVISE INVESTIGATION MORE CLOSELY.
- B. TEN ADDITIONAL UNIFORMED CARABINIERI ASSIGNED TO AUGMENT NORTHERN SARDINIAN FORCE ON FULL TIME BASIS.
- C. SEVEN ADDITIONAL SECURITY AGENTS ASSIGNED LOCALLY ON FULL CONFIDENTIAL

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TIME BASIS.

D. INCREASED COORDINATION BETWEEN CARABINIERI AND SHORE PATROL INCLUDING PAIRED PATROLS AND STREAMLINED COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES TO EXPEDITE REACTION TO REPORTED ACTIVITY.

E. INCREASED LIAISON BETWEEN LOCAL NIS AND CARABINIERI.

F. ORIG PROVIDED QUESTORE WITH NAMES, AND ADDRESSES OF PEOPLE ASHORE TO FACILITATE INCREASED PATROL EFFORTS.

G. REQUESTED PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS TO REPORT ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AND PROVIDED SIMPLE, RAPID COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES.

H. VICE QUESTORE ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY TO BEEF UP OLBIA AIRPORT SECURITY PLUS USN RELATED CONTRACTOR OFFICES AND BUILDINGS IN OLBIA AREA.

5. (C) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS APPARENTLY UNDER MUCH PRESSURE FROM ROME TO CLAMP DOWN ON TERRORIST ACTS. ORIG IMPRESSED WITH QUESTORE'S DIRECT ACTIVE APPROACH. HE WAS VERY WILLING TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS WE DEEMED NECESSARY BOTH TO INCREASE SECURITY AND ADDRESS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF REASSURING OUR PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE SAFE. AS A POLITICAL APPOINTEE HE WAS PREDICTABLY VERY CONSCIOUS OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC REACTION

TO EFFORTS BEING MADE, BUT THIS IN NO WAY IMPACTED ON ACTIONS
DECIDED ON. IN SUMMARY, A FULLY EFFECTIVE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE MEETING.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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